

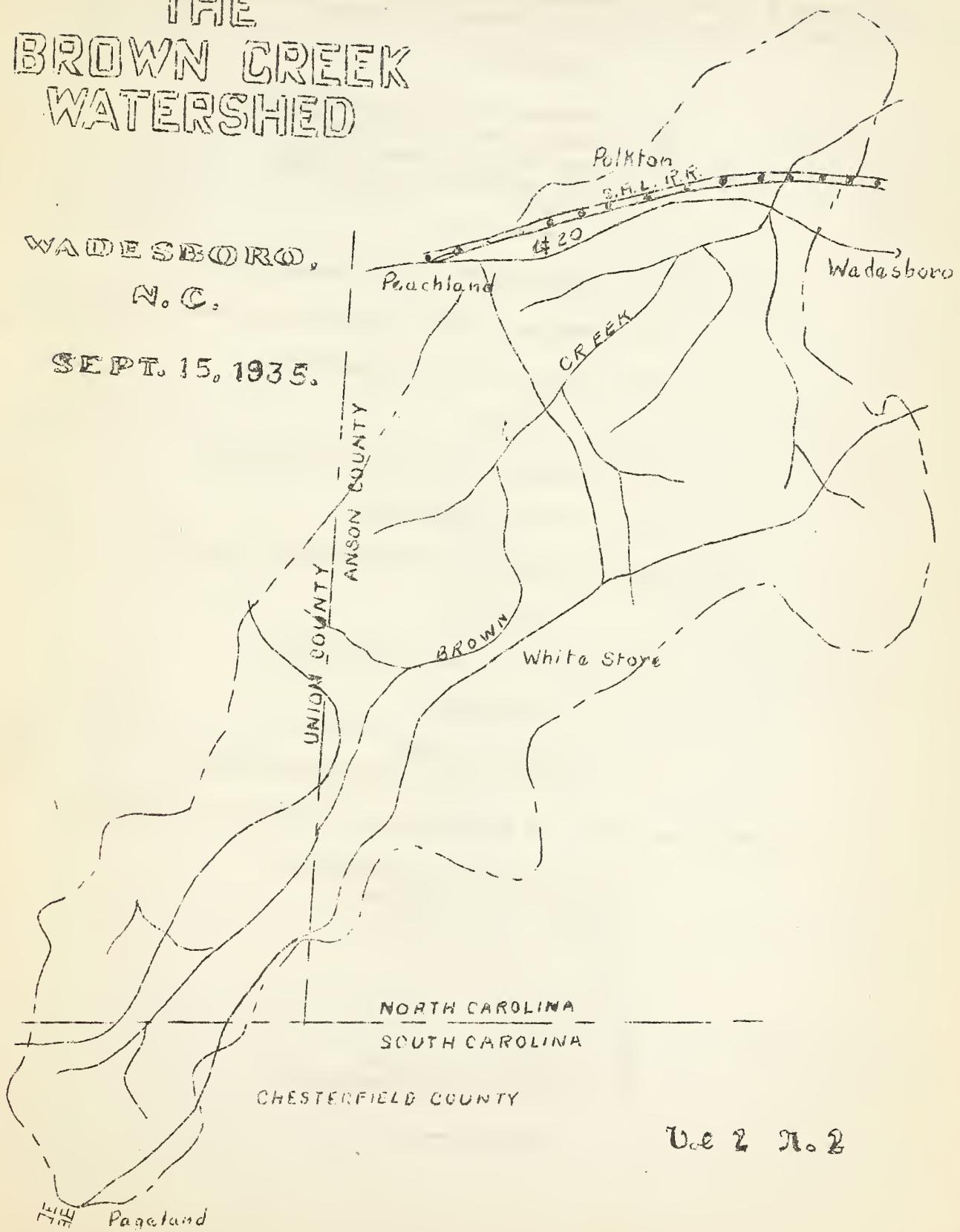
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THE BROWN CREEK WATERSHED

WADESBORO,
N.C.

SEPT. 15, 1935.



Vol 2 No 2

THE BROWN CREEK WATERSHED is being put out by the Soil Conservation Staff once each month, mainly to assist in telling what we are doing and maintain a spirit of good fellowship with the citizens of the community we endeavor to serve.

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Miss Nancy Hardison, Stenographer.

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J. W. Hankins, Ass't. Agri. Aide, in charge of Wildlife.

W. B. Little, Ass't. Agriculturist.

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AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Donald Christy, Ass't. Agricultural Engincer.

AGRONOMY

J. E. Michael, Ass't. Agronomist.

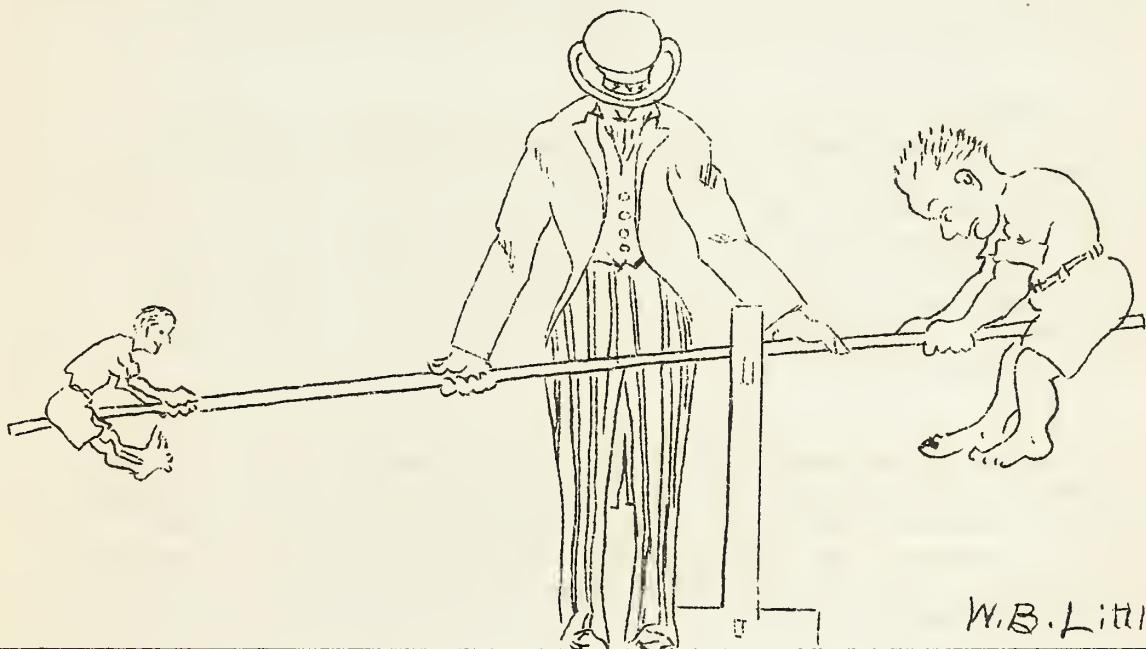
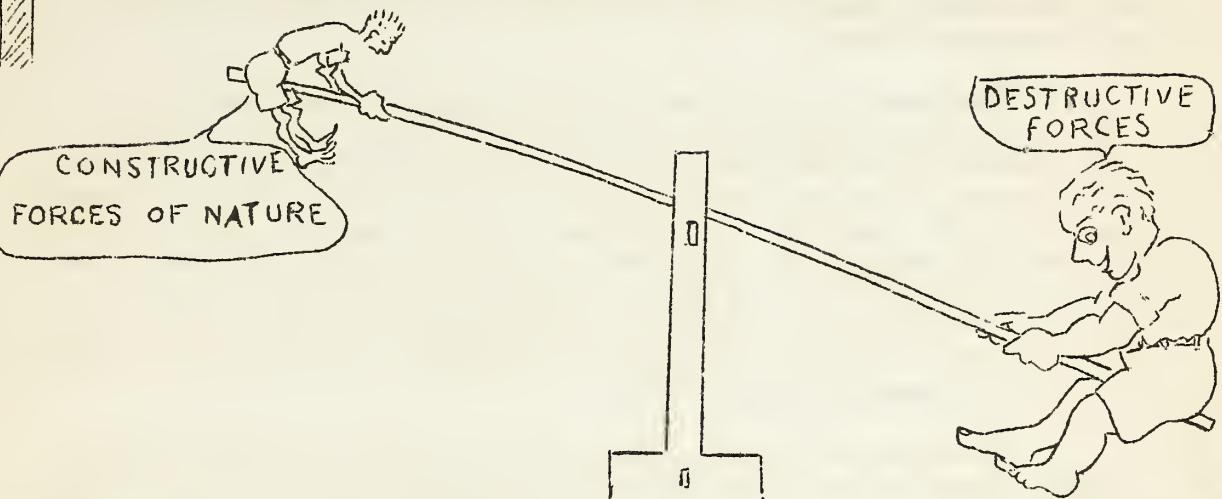
FORESTRY

H. P. Hagge, Forester.
L. B. Hairr, Ass't. Agricultural Aide.

Directing personnel for the ECW Camp at Polkton is as follows:

W. B. McManus, Superintendent.
Leonard Tillson, Engineer.
T. Herbert Lee, Foreman.
George H. Ross, "
Harry C. Johnson, "
C. A. Neal, "
C. W. Thompson, "
M. L. Ross, "
B. W. Ingram, Mechanic.
W. L. Teal, Clerk-Stenographer.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT



W.B. Little

The opposing forces of nature are always active, one building up and the other tearing down. The balance of power is usually on the side of constructive forces when not molested by man, but exploitation by cultivation and grazing immediately reverses the balance and destructive forces exceed. At present a grave menace by reason of rapidly accelerated excess on the destructive side confronts us. Necessary changes must be made to shift the balance and it's up to us to do this NOW. The Soil Conservation Service is intrusted with the responsibility of this shifting of balance. We ask the help of everyone, so let's pull together.

AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT

Saving Lespedeza Seed

The Soil Conservation Service will not have lespedeza seed for general distribution next spring, so it is important that every cooperator plan to save sufficient seed from this year's crop for sowing next spring.

Lespedeza is one of the few soil improving and hay crops grown in the South from which seed for another crop can be saved at little expense or trouble with a seed pan attached to the cutter bar of the mower. There are many farmers in the area who have been growing lespedeza in the past and are familiar with the seed pan and its use. Those who are growing the crop for the first time and will require as much as 400 pounds of seed, which is enough to sow ten acres and is worth about forty dollars, will be well repaid by buying a pan. A pan can be bought at Wadesboro or Monroe for \$6.50, and will pay for itself several times over the first year.

The yield of seed per acre varies a great deal and it would be only a guess to state how much seed to expect. The yield will vary from 100 pounds to 400 pounds, with a fair average yield of 200 pounds. To harvest lespedeza seed with a pan the plants should be dead ripe and thoroughly dry in order for the seed to shatter readily when cut.

Dodder or love-vine, as it is sometimes named, is the worst pest of the lespedeza plant. This is a parasitic plant and lives on the juices of the host. Dodder spreads entirely by its seed, which ripens with the lespedeza and are about the same size, making it very difficult to separate them with a seed cleaning machine. If a field has been selected from which to save seed and there are only a few spots of dodder in it, a good plan would be to mow the dodder with a scythe when it is in bloom and carry or haul it out of the field, let it dry and burn it.

Lespedeza can be cut, and threshed with a grain thresher, and this method is in common use in the upper Piedmont section of the State where Korean lespedeza is grown. If lespedeza is to be threshed, it should be cut when full yellow-ripe, at which stage most of the seed will be mature. The crop is cured as for hay and usually threshed from the field. Lespedeza cut yellow-ripe and threshed makes a very good quality of hay.

Fall Use of Lime

There was considerable lime hauled out to farms from the late spring shipments too late to use on grain fields. This lime should be spread on fields to be sowed to grain this fall. Anyone who has lime to spread can get a spreader from the Polkton warehouse, and when through with it pass it on to a neighbor who needs it. There is still a quantity of lime on hand at Polkton, Pageland, and Peachland. Hauling dates from these points will be announced later.

Barley as a Food Crop

Barley is sometimes called the "winter corn crop." It should be sowed in this section in between the sowing dates of fall oats and wheat or from October 1st to November 1st. Tennessee 6 is a smooth head variety and well adapted for use here. Sow two bushels per acre on well disked stalk land, or prepare land and sow the same as wheat.

The S. C. S. will have a very limited amount of Tennessee 6 barley for distribution to those cooperators who are most anxious to try a small field this fall, preferably as a strip crop.

SOILS DEPARTMENT
-R. C. Pleasants.-

Dominant Soils in Brown Creek Watershed Area.

The Granville Soils

DESCRIPTION: Only two types of the Granville series are mapped in this area, the Granville fine sandy loam and the Granville gravelly sandy loam. The surface soil of the Granville fine sandy loam is a grayish to light-brownish fine sandy loam, becoming yellowish brown at a depth of 3 to 5 inches. This is underlain at a depth of about 8 to 15 inches by a yellow friable sandy clay, which in some places passes at a depth of 26 to 30 inches into a stiffer yellow clay, mottled with gray or yellow or both. The surface soil in the Granville gravelly sandy loam is a grayish to light-brown or yellowish brown sandy loam containing an abundance of rounded and angular fragments of quartz, passing at 3 to 5 inches into a pale yellow to brownish sandy loam. This is underlain at a depth of 10 to 20 inches by a yellowish friable sandy clay. The subsoil usually becomes stiffer in the lower part and in many places is mottled with red and gray.

DERIVATION: The Granville soils derive from the disintegration of the Triassic Sandstone and shale rock.

OCCURRENCE: Granville soils are found in scattered areas throughout the sandstone belt, but not so much in the vicinity of White Store.

TOPOGRAPHY: This soil is found on gently rolling areas. The greater part ranging from 3% to 10% in slope.

FERTILITY: Chemical analysis show that this soil contains less plant food nutrients than some of the other Triassic soils; but as it has favorable physical conditions, it is classed as a very valuable soil.

It is a soil that is capable and easy to improve by the incorporation of organic matter and by the use of leguminous crops. Moderate applications of commercial fertilizers which are relatively high in nitrogen and potash are necessary for all crops. Lime has proven to be greatly beneficial for crop production on the Granville soils.

CROP PRODUCTION: Although there is not any tobacco grown in this area, there is no reason why it could not be grown successfully on the better types of this soil. Cotton and corn give fair yields. As this is an early soil, it is good for truck farming and sweet potatoes.

DEGREE OF EROSION: This soil is very good for absorbing water and for this reason it is not as susceptible to erosion as the other Triassic soils.

CONTROL MEASURES: Erosion on this soil can easily be controlled by terracing, strip cropping, rotations, and by contour tillage.

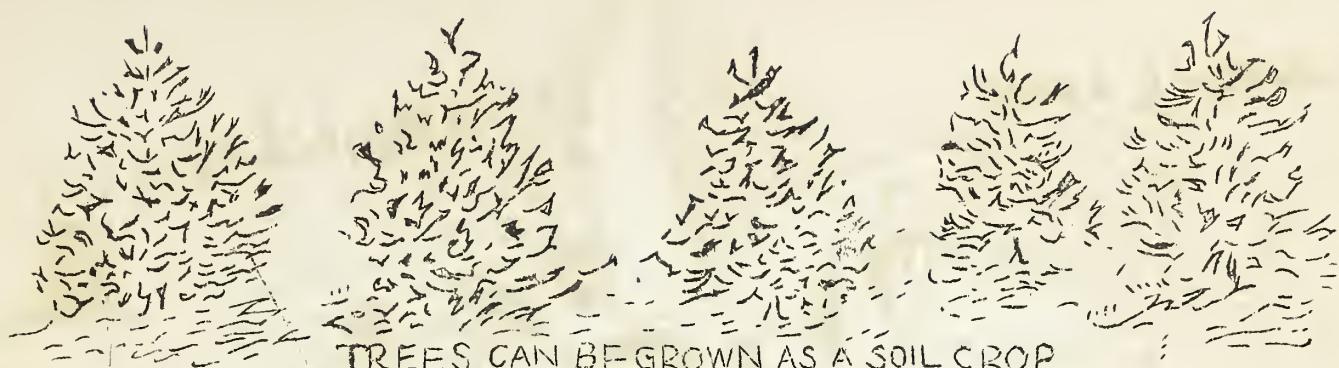
Wildlife Conservation Department
- John W. Hankins -

The Department of Wildlife Conservation, which discontinued its work here on July 20th, 1935 due to changes in personnel, has again begun work. In the near future a representative of this Department will visit most of the farms that have been signed up to make complete plans for their work in the next two years. This Department received hearty support during the past year, resulting in several hundred acres of barren, eroded land being converted into wonderful food and cover for the desirable species of wildlife in this area. This cover, much of which was made on field borders and in odd corners of fields, also prevents the forming of small gullies at the edge of good agricultural land.

Many of the terrace outlets and small gullies in fields are being held in check by the coralberry shrub which is native to this area. Many other varieties of shrubs were used with good results, among them privet, Scotch heather, soapberry and most all species of blackberry.

At the beginning of our operations we will be collecting several varieties of seeds for planting next year. We will appreciate very much any farmer in the area or out of the area notifying us if he has quite a number of seed on his farm that make good bird food. The holly berry is very good and we wish to collect a large amount of every species possible. Any other seed which we might be able to collect in sufficient quantities we will appreciate being notified of in order that we may investigate and determine its value.

There is a large amount of coralberry, privet, blackberry, haws, etc in this area, and any farmer who has a surplus amount of any of these or others on his land we would be very glad to move some of them either by seed or plant. By giving of these shrubs and seed you will be rendering a great service to yourself and your community.



TREES CAN BE GROWN AS A SOIL CROP

Forestry News

By
Harold P. Nagye, Forester

The Forestry Department is now busily engaged in preparing plans for the coming planting season and at the same time trying to contact farmers and timber landowners to obtain their full cooperation on an intensive farm woodland management program.

Space will not allow a complete explanation about the program, but in brief the Forestry Department will investigate your farm woodland problems. We will demonstrate on a small plot of your woodland how a landowner may obtain fuel wood, posts and poles from the woodlot and at the same time improve the existing tree crop. The plots will not be large (about five acres) and the individual owner will salvage one half of the trees cut and the other half of the forest products is to be used by the Soil Conservation Service for structures in gullies, terrace outlets and for fuel at the E.C.W. Camp. Every farmer on the Brown Creek Area and cooperator with the Soil Conservation Service has the opportunity to receive a sample of timber stand improvement work. Some fifty landowners on the area have already received a demonstration by the Forestry Department and the method has met with their approval.

It must be understood that our Farm Woodland Improvement Cutting Demonstration plots are just sample plots and are to serve as illustrations in the treatment of woodlands to produce the greatest amount of the most valuable forest products in the shortest period of time. Erosion is absent in a well managed woodland. When an area is well stocked with trees and the trees are cut as a crop the timber yield is doubled per acre.

Statement from U. S. Forest Service Experiment Stations

A protected stand of timber on average land unsuited for cultivation at age about twenty (20) years and up to forty (40) years should yield on a yearly basis from five hundred (500) to one thousand (1000) board feet per acre.



AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING
-Donald Christy-

Lost Half a Nation

350,000,000 Cultivated acres in United States
35,000,000 Permanently lost land through gullies
315,000,000 Acres left
125,000,000 Acres without topsoil
190,000,000 Acres which have part or all of the topsoil left

Experiments on the Oklahoma and Texas Experiment Stations show that terracing to conserve the moisture on a land slope of only two feet in one hundred feet increases crop yields from twenty per cent to forty per cent. Terracing, the use of legumes, contour farming, etc., has often brought back yields of cotton from an unprofitable one-fourth bale per acre to a profitable bale per acre in Oklahoma.

It has rained some real "he man" rains lately. The rain has totaled as much as 6.4 inches at the end of the hurricane which both preceded and followed about two-inch rains or about ten inches of rain in the last fifteen days.

Cotton will be coming off shortly. Now is the time to make arrangements for terracing. We will only be able to terrace about one thousand acres before the winter rains set in. One thousand acres is only about three acres per farm, average. See Mr. Christy, Mr. Michael, Mr. Stett, or leave word at the warehouse or office if you would like to get this work done this fall.

It will be well to inspect the terraces already constructed before the rainy winter season sets in, repairing all breaks and removing all deposits of silt "deltas". Leave as much growing vegetation for winter protection as possible. Even dead vegetation is better than bare ground. While inspecting the terraces be sure that the outlet is holding and functioning properly. If it is not, remedy it. This inspection and repair can come after cotton harvest is over and time commences to be slack.

E. C. W. CAMP

The Brown Creek Watershed was not published last month and it is with genuine pleasure that we can again communicate with you through this medium.

Due to conditions beyond our control the greater part of field work has been carried on by the Camp forces since late June, under the able Administrative and Engineering advices from the Soil Conservation Service offices in Wadesboro.

We are highly gratified to know that the Soil Conservation Service is again expanding its forces and they will immediately be thrown into the breach with those of ours to further your land rehabilitation problems, everputting into effect the known and tried practices of Soil Conservation.

In coordination with Technical forces of the Forestry Department we are endeavoring to give practical, small plot demonstrations of improvement in timber stands, and we would like to have an opportunity of giving you one of the demonstrations on your farm, should conditions justify it.

We would again like to call to your attention, the vast importance of keeping your terrace outlet channels well mown from time to time, that they will not clog up with debris and silt to the point of deteriorating the vegetative protection now so firmly established in these channels.

Since it is practically an assured fact, that soon we are to begin a county wide program, we would like for you to give your neighbor and friend an impression of the service that has been rendered you by our forces since the inception of the Soil Conservation Service program in the Brown Creek Demonstrational area. On a broader field of endeavor the method of handling the program may be somewhat different but in whatever way the camp takes part we shall strive to serve efficiently. Your visits and constructive criticisms are always welcome.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Wadesboro, N. C.

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